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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/054,898 | 01/25/2002 | Satoshi Shinada | Q67951 | 8316 |

7590 08/18/2003

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| EXAMINER |
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NGHIEM, MICHAEL P

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2863

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/054,898

Applicant(s)

SHINADA ET AL.

Examiner

Michael P Nghiem

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 50-52 and 58-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 50-52, 58, 60, 62 and 63 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 59 and 61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/437,246.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

The Amendments filed on May 27, 2003 has been acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 59 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nagasaki et al. (US 6,036,305).

Nagasaki et al. discloses all the claimed features of the invention including:

- an ink supply system (Figs. 3, 5, 6) for a printing apparatus (Fig. 7) providing ink to a printing head (1) through a tapered ink supply needle (2), said ink supply system capable of providing ink contained in an ink chamber (interior of 11 including 12, 13) to the print head through the ink supply needle (Fig. 3), comprising:

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- an ink channel (outlet of 11) for providing ink from said ink chamber to the print head of the printing apparatus (Fig. 6);

- a first member (19) provided at said ink channel, forming a part of said ink channel for allowing a flow of ink (Fig. 6), said first member sealing the ink supply needle of the ink printing apparatus by fitting therewith (Figs. 5, 6);

- a second member (18) contained in said ink channel elastically abutting against said first member (with help of 17) in a direction which is the same as a direction of the sealing by said first member with said second member (Figs. 5, 6), said second member selectively opening and closing said ink channel in conjunction with the ink supply needle (Figs. 5, 6);

- said second member comprises a guide body (left wall of 11) operably allowing said second member to slide substantially vertically with respect to said first member (19), said guide body operably suppressing a horizontal deviation of said second member (18 cannot not deviate horizontally to the left);

- said ink channel extending substantially straight to an interior of said ink chamber from said ink supply port (outlet of 11 extends straight to 13).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 50-52, 58, 60, 62, and 63 are allowed.

Reasons For Allowance

3. The combination as claimed wherein said protruding member contacts the ink supply needle of the printing apparatus (claim 50) or the angle of said notch of the second member is the same as the tapered angle of the ink supply needle (claims 58, 62) or said second member comprises a guide rod extending along a direction to the ink chamber, and a guide unit fitting with said second member for allowing said second member to slide along the direction of the sealing of said first member with said second member (claim 60) is not disclosed, suggested, or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

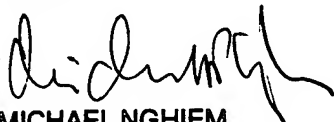
Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Nghiem whose telephone number is (703) 306-3445. The examiner can normally be reached on M-H from 6:30AM – 5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached at (703) 308-3126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7724 for regular communications and (703) 308-5841 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



MICHAEL NGHIEM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Michael Nghiem

August 7, 2003